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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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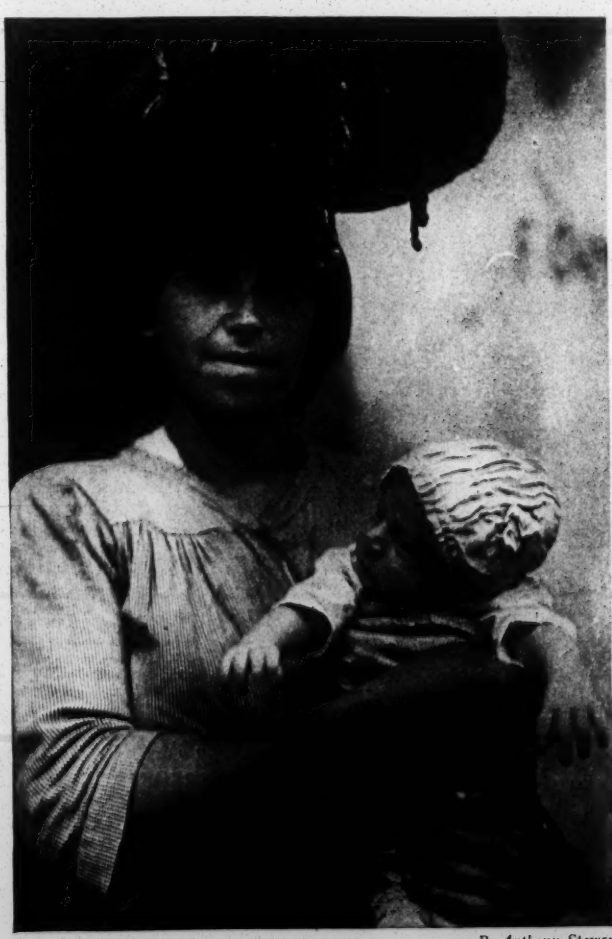

B. Anthony Stewart

MADONNA OF THE BATTLEFIELDS

This Italian mother, photographed before the war at Cassino, lived in the mountains of central Italy which became a battleground for American and Nazi forces. Peacetime Cassino was the market town for the vicinity. Women from miles around walked in on market days. This young mother brought her infant in a basket on her head, carrying a bundle on one hip; after reaching town she reversed the burdens. The *bambino*, barely a couple of weeks old, is fortified for the jouncing jaunt to market by his swaddling clothes—the bands of sturdy homespun in which he is wrapped up to his armpits, as portrayed by Andrea del Sarto. When his back is stronger, the swaddling will be discarded. American soldiers are fighting on the doorsteps of such Italian families (Bulletin No. 2).

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Marshall Islands Stronghold Unlocked with Kwajalein Key

THE capture of Kwajalein atoll by American forces marked the first Allied entry into territory governed by Japan. Kwajalein is the largest unit and a central link in the 700-mile-long double chain of Marshall Islands (map, next page) which form the easternmost section of Japanese Micronesia.

The atoll, 80 miles long from tip to tip, consists of a handful of dry-land islands strung together with coral reefs to outline a sock-shaped lagoon. The toe of the sock points south; the leg points west. The largest island of the atoll—sharing the atoll's name of Kwajalein—marks the toe of the sock. Bigej, Meck, and other dry islets form the sole. Namur and Roi the heel. Prewar population of the atoll was close to a thousand.

Kwajalein Island is a two-mile-long chunk of dry land. In prewar days a church and a police station stood on the western side. Warehouses and water tanks of a trading company were other landmarks.

Atoll Islets Form Coral Necklace Around Lagoon

Eniwetok followed Kwajalein into American hands. Previously it had shared attack with Jaluit and Wotje atolls (detailed insets on map, next page).

Just north of the Equator, about halfway between the Hawaiian Islands and Australia, the 32 atolls and 800 reefs of the Marshalls are strewn over the Pacific in two roughly parallel chains about 100 miles apart—the eastern group known as the Radak ("sunrise") chain, and the western the Ralik ("sunset").

Nowhere are the coral circles more than 40 feet above the sea. Most of the islands composing the atolls are narrow, some only a few yards wide. Many are so low that big wind-driven combers wash completely over the island strips into the enclosed lagoons. The coral beads of islets shelter the lagoons' salt-water harbors with a minimum of land.

Coral floors of the lagoons are uneven; their depths range from shallows to deep-water anchorages for big ships. Reefs spike the approaches to lagoons, are daggers at low water.

Seasons in the Marshalls change only in name. The climate is hot and humid. Average year-round temperature is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall is plentiful. Prevailing winds are easterly, rustle the palms into island lullabies. Typhoons, occasionally generated in this region, blow out to sea toward China and Japan with roaring fury.

Islanders Made Sailing Charts of Leaf Strips

Coconut, breadfruit, banana, and papaya trees grow readily on the island. Taro is cultivated as a staple. For some islands, rich soil was imported by Japs to give a foothold to more varied vegetation. Fish are abundant in the lagoons and beyond in the sea. Range of animal life is narrow—dogs, pigs, cats, bats, rats. Houses of wood and thatch run mostly to roof.

Biggest prewar business of the Marshalls was the trade in copra, for the past sixty years an important commodity. Once a rendezvous of Pacific whalers, the islands stirred German and Australian interests to competition for the copra trade. The Germans got financial aid from their government; Germany claimed the Marshalls in 1885 and held them until the Japanese occupation in 1914.

After the islands were entrusted to their control by mandate, the Japanese shut

UMI

A. W. Cutler

SICILY DISPLAYS THE JEEP OF THE HORSE AND BUGGY ERA

Most of the people who till Sicily's soil live in towns that dot the countryside ten or fifteen miles apart. Farm workers travel six or seven miles from town to the fields. The utility vehicle of these town-dwelling country folk is the traditional two-wheeled *carretta*, in which tools, crops, and toilers commute daily between town and farm. Paintings on panels of the *carretta's* sides show scenes from mythology, lives of the saints, and Sicilian history, especially days of Norman rule when knighthood was in flower. This cart's "moving pictures" show history on the side, religion on the rear. The *carretta* these days pulls over to the side of stonewalled, cactus-bordered roads to make way for a jeep or American staff car (Bulletin No. 2).

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Where Are the Yanks? 3. Sicily and Southern Italy

(This is the third in a series of articles about the regions where American service men and women are stationed.)

SICILY and southern Italy were called the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies before Italy became a unified modern state. Now the Yanks in the Mediterranean area have welded the Two Sicilies together again with fire and steel (map, next page).

Geologists say that Sicily and southern Italy belong together, though nature separated them ages ago. General Eisenhower's Yanks, in crossing the Strait of Messina, followed the route of the Romans, of Roger the Norman, and of Garibaldi.

What are these regions of southern Italy like? What are Yanks finding that is familiar and just like home, and what that is new and foreign?

One of the surprises, for those who expected the "sunny Italy" of tourist posters, is the weather. Sicily never freezes, but the mountaintops are sometimes covered with snow. Southern Italy, with its jagged spine of Apennine Mountains reaching 6,400 feet, has a severe winter of sudden extremes, especially in the mountains and along the Adriatic coast.

Lonely Countryside of Large Estates

Although southern Italy and Sicily are largely agricultural, they have few farmhouses. Instead of small farms, much of the land is in large estates. Hired farm workers live in towns and go daily to fields miles away. This practice causes rural areas to have a deserted aspect strange to Yanks. The desolation of central Sicily is increased by the sulphur mines.

A Yank invited into a peasant's home is likely to see a large family living in one or two rooms with pigs and fowls, and children wearing rock salt amulets to ward off the evil eye. A rich Neapolitan or Palermitan might entertain him in the courtyard of a palace.

Sicily, granary of the ancient world, was the mythical home of Ceres and birthplace of agriculture. It is today a combination orchard-garden-vineyard, more fertile than much of southern Italy. Citrus fruits, grapes, and olives are the big crops.

Few Forests in Southern Italy

Yanks in Sicily may forget their jeeps long enough to take a ride on the traditional two-wheeled, highly decorated, donkey-pulled cart (illustration, inside cover).

Southern Italy has few forests, little dense vegetation. This baldness, which extends to the mountains, is one reason for the intermittent flooding and drying up of the many short rivers during the winter rains and summer droughts. It also explains why a moderate rainfall on certain soils produces seas of mud.

In two areas of southern Italy, agriculture is outstandingly successful. Stony Apulia, heel of the Italian boot, is known for its grapes and olives; few places in the world rival Apulia for output of olive oil in proportion to area. The green crescent of Campania around Naples yields abundant crops from its fertile volcanic soil. In peacetime it supports the highest population density in Italy, one of the highest in the world.

Noticeable to a nature-loving Yank is the scarcity of song birds. At night the cicadas and other insects set up their shrill repetitive drone. Also heard in the night are mandolins and soft singing, or the boisterous music of the tarantella—traditional dance of southern Italy—a lovers' quarrel and reconciliation set to the dance.

Ageless marionette and Punch-and-Judy shows abound both in Sicily and southern Italy. Puppet-hero of Naples is Scaramuccia, a quarrelsome, cowardly braggart. Live actors take part in the many town festivals. Background of most of these celebrations is religious. Delicacies are eaten, wine is drunk, and men and women dance in the streets.

Though the average elevation is 1,700 feet, most of the cities are situated at, or near, sea level. The largest cities—Naples, Palermo, Catania, Bari, Messina—are all ports. Along the coasts are many smaller ports, several resorts—Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi—and fishing villages whose inhabitants live on *frutta di mare*—"fruit of the sea." Caltanisetta, with about 50,000 people, and Foggia, with 61,000, are the area's largest inland towns.

Sicily is about the size of Vermont. The area of Italy south of Rome is more than three times as large, approximating the area of Maine. Nearly all the interior is occupied by jumbled hills and mountains. Villages perch on almost inaccessible crags. Some lowland coastal regions are malarial swamps.

Bulletin No. 2, March 6, 1944 (over).

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the door, drove out not only Europeans but also many natives.

A prewar population estimate put the total at about 10,000, with 481 persons listed as Japanese. Natives of the Marshalls are chiefly Kanakas, a racial mixture derived from Malayans from the west, Melanesians from the south, and Polynesians from the east. Christianity made headway in the islands after the arrival of American missionaries in 1857.

The islanders are expert builders of canoes and boats. They have made a reputation as daring navigators. They make navigation charts of leaf strips arranged on rectangular frames. The way the strips are laid on the frame indicates islands, currents, direction of winds.

The scarcity of drinking water presents a problem to Americans. The islanders did not suffer thirst too much; they tapped coconuts for a drink, caught rain water, or drank from the islands' brackish wells.

KWAJALEIN DOMINATES THE TWO MARSHALL CHAINS

All other members of the Radak and Ralik coral atoll strings are within bombing reach of Kwajalein, new American base. This atoll consists of more than 90 islets, some without names. (The largest are indicated by heavy lines; lighter lines outline coral reefs.) Jaluit has been the islands' Jap capital, with headquarters at Jabor. Wotje atoll has more than 60 islands strung on reefs around its lagoon. Oval Eniwetok is a typical atoll—a lagoon enclosed by intermittent sandy strips and reefs awash, with dry islands on the windward (eastern) side. Mili atoll has more than 100 islands, Majuro and Namu more than 50 each.

Bulletin No. 1, March 6, 1944.

Jabor Capital

Public affairs of the Marshalls were administered from the town of Jabor on Jaluit Island. Modern facilities included a customs house, a hospital, a radio station. Regular ship service linked the island with Japan and with other islands in the Japanese mandate.

Discovered early in the 16th century by the Spaniard De Saavedra, the islands were named by him Los Pintados because of the tattooed natives. Britain's Captain Marshall explored them in 1788, gave the group the name it now bears.

Note: See also "Hidden Key to the Pacific," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1942*; and "Mysterious Micronesia," April, 1936; and "The Marshall Islands, Markers of Micronesia's Boundary," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 24, 1944. (*Issues marked by an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers at 10¢ each in groups of ten.*)

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Finland a Big Factor in Northern Europe's War Developments

FINLAND'S moves to withdraw from the war call for an evaluation of what that country, as Germany's northernmost co-belligerent, has contributed to the Axis strength since going to war with the Soviet Union on June 26, 1941, four days after the Nazis invaded Russia.

In the battle with the U.S.S.R., German forces were able to make use of Finnish territory overlooking western sea lanes to Russia by way of the Arctic in the far north and by way of the Gulf of Finland in the south. From Finnish bases the Nazis were within flying reach of the Soviet Union's second-largest metropolis, Leningrad; of the ice-free Arctic port, Murmansk, to which Russia's allies shipped supplies; and of the 900-mile railway that connects the port with Leningrad and other Russian battlefronts.

Trade with Germany Important

Partial figures for 1943 indicate Finland's wartime trade with Germany. In that year the Germans had increased to nearly 75 per cent their share in Finnish exports and imports. Nazi-controlled Denmark accounted for nine per cent; Italy five per cent; Sweden four per cent.

From Finland, Germany has obtained war-vital supplies of nickel and copper, as well as forest products such as wood pulp, plywood, cellulose, and timber for such manufactures as matches, skis, airplane propellers, and paper products.

Finland's recent nickel output (essential for such war supplies as armor plate, bullet jackets, and gun barrels) is believed to be more than double the figure of several years ago. One estimate of production in 1942 was placed at 18,000 tons—roughly five per cent of the world supply. Most of the nickel is obtained from the formerly Canadian-owned mines in the Petsamo region, reported to have been put into operation by German engineers with German equipment. Other nickel mines are said to be in use near Nivala, in west-central Finland.

Finnish copper—of value, for example, in brass shells, dynamos, and power lines for war-strained Germany—has been reported to come from around Outokumpu, in southeast Finland facing Soviet-held territory.

In the reverse trade stream, Finland—badly in need of foodstuffs and other living necessities—has received its main supplies from Germany and German-dominated countries. They included grains, coal, and coke. Some butter has been obtained from Denmark and a little tobacco from the Balkan nations.

Not-So-Small Finland Larger Than England or Italy

Most of Finland's more than three and a half million people make their living normally by farming and dairying (illustration, next page). Yet the nation's cultivated acreage is less than one-tenth of the total area. Crops are typically northern—rye, barley, oats, wheat, potatoes, and hay. Prewar Finland exported chiefly forest and dairy products; imported machinery, industrial raw materials, meat, fruit, coffee, grains, tobacco, and processed foods.

Finland, to most Americans, is a land of the midnight sun—and the nation which pays its debts. It is the home of the formidable Finnish bath, with its strenuous steamings and birch slappings, and of native sons who have won world notice in such varied fields as musical composition, architecture, and athletics. Back in 1906, Finland's women were among the world's earliest to vote.

UMI

Through 2,500 years nature has vied with man in keeping Italy and Sicily turbulent. Vesuvius and Etna, two of the world's most active volcanoes, continually threaten Naples, Catania, and a host of villages built within range of their craters. Buried Pompeii at Vesuvius' feet is evidence of what might happen to them. Earthquakes have wrecked Catania, Messina, Reggio Calabria, and many other towns.

At least one-eighth of the area of Sicily and southern Italy is uninhabitable wasteland; most of this is in the mountains. The frightfulness as a battleground of the snow-covered mountain snarls of "sunny Italy" surprised even those of the Yanks who had once vacationed in this southern California of Europe. The fighting there is vertical warfare—up one mountain after another. "Over the top" meant over the mountaintop until the Anzio beachhead introduced American forces to the coastal plain south of Rome.

* * * *

Note: Italy and Sicily are shown on the Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, and Map of Classical Lands of the Mediterranean.

For additional material, see "Sicily Again in the Path of War," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1943; and "Italy, from Roman Ruins to Radio," March, 1940*.

Bulletin No. 2, March 6, 1944.

VOLCANOES AND INVASIONS HAVE VEXED ITALY'S SOUTH FOR CENTURIES

The geographic partition between the Mediterranean's eastern and western halves, peninsular Italy and its three-cornered island continuation—Sicily—have been washed by innumerable invasion tides, from Greeks and Carthaginians to Nazis, including Saracens, Ostrogoths, Papal armies, and troops of Napoleon. After the conquests of Norman counts in the 11th and 12th centuries Sicily and southern Italy were ruled together as "the Two Sicilies." On the island in 1848 broke out the revolutionary movement on the crest of which Garibaldi later swept Sicily and southern Italy into the united Kingdom of Italy, with its capital at Rome. Mountains in the center and malaria around the edges slowed development of the Italian South.

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Piraeus: Athens' Gateway to the Sea

WHEN Nazi activities drew Allied attacks to Piraeus (Peiraievs), twin-sister city and port of modern Athens, American bombers brought aerial warfare to a site rich in naval lore (illustration, next page).

The Germans have held this Greek port on the Aegean Sea since April, 1941. Before then the modern nation of Greece had revived in 100 years the importance of the harbor that in ancient times witnessed one of the most decisive and consequential naval battles in history.

The fateful Battle of Salamis (480 B.C.) was fought in the outer harbor of Piraeus near the island of Salamis. There the Athenian fleet completely routed the giant Persian armada sent by Xerxes to add Greece to his world dominions. Some historians say that if the Persians had won, eastern Europe would have been dominated by the Orient, and the trend of civilization would have been different.

Fourth-Ranking Mediterranean Port in Peacetime Trade

When Greece freed herself from the Turks in 1830, the very name of the glorious port of Athens in the Golden Age had been forgotten. The straggling fishing village on the site was called Porto Leone. Athens was made the capital of the new Greece, and the necessity for an adequate port was felt.

The modern city of Piraeus was then laid out, with wide, straight streets. Spacious quays with all facilities were built in the large landlocked harbor. Piraeus soon surpassed other Greek ports, and by 1935 it ranked fourth among the Mediterranean's ports. Much of its shipping is with the numerous Greek islands. In 1940 Piraeus had 250,000 inhabitants.

Before 1835, when its reconstruction started, the port's history is a blank as far back as 86 B.C. In that year Sulla, Roman general, destroyed Piraeus.

Traded Coal for Olive Oil

In normal times, before the Nazis invaded Greece, the chief import of modern Piraeus was coal, followed by grains, textiles, and machinery. Exports included olive oil, ores, wines, and tobacco.

Piraeus was also a city of national importance for its industries. Local plants manufactured such diverse products as textiles, carpets, chairs, soap, macaroni, cognac, and flour.

It is the terminus of nearly all important roads and railroads in Greece. The Germans have ringed the area with airports.

Little remains of the ancient city except some harbor works and ruins of the long walls built between Athens and Piraeus for protection. Athens, five miles inland, was so situated in accordance with the ancient Greeks' cautious habit of building settlements away from the pirate-infested seas.

Note: Piraeus is shown in a detailed inset of ancient Athens on the Society's Map of Classical Lands of the Mediterranean.

The *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1944, contains two articles on Greece, "The Greek Way" and "Greece—the Birthplace of Science and Free Speech," and also "The Glory That Was Greece"—a series of 32 paintings by H. M. Herget, in full color, with explanatory text, of life in ancient Greece.

For additional information, see "Classic Greece Merges Into 1941 News" (19 photographs), January, 1941*; "Modern Odyssey in Classic Lands," March, 1940*; and "New Greece, the Centenarian, Forges Ahead," December, 1930.

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Many Finns have migrated to the United States. The 1940 U. S. census showed more than 280,000 persons born in Finland or of Finnish descent. An indication of the traditional friendship between the two countries is the fact that diplomatic relations were not broken, in spite of Finland's co-belligerency with Germany. The United States did break off consular contacts in 1942, however, and forbade distribution of Finnish propaganda in this country, following similar action by Finland.

Great Britain has been at war with Finland since December, 1941, as have Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the Union of South Africa, and the government of Czechoslovakia.

Contrary to popular belief, Finland is not small. In prewar Europe it was the seventh-largest nation, extending some 700 miles from the Arctic Ocean to the Baltic Sea. It was nearly three times the size of England, and close to 3,000 square miles larger than Italy. Its population, however, numbered less than one-tenth that of either England or Italy.

War with the Soviet Union brought drastic population shifts in border regions. On the Soviet occupation of territories ceded in 1940, most of their inhabitants moved inside the new Finnish boundaries. Later, after Finnish forces reoccupied their former territories, it was estimated in 1941 that more than 40,000 (about ten per cent of the refugees) had gone back to the Karelian Isthmus.

Note: Finland is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Europe and the Near East. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters.

For further information, see "Flashes from Finland, in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1940*; and "Farthest-North Republic," October, 1938*.

See also these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "New Boundaries for a Shorn Finland," April 1, 1940; and "Finnish Battlefields Beside Ladoga, Europe's Largest Lake," March 4, 1940.

Bulletin No. 3, March 6, 1944.

P. J. Bögelund

THREE MILLION FINNS MAINTAIN TWO MILLION CATTLE, AND VICE VERSA

Dairying occupies an important place in the lives of the 60 per cent of Finland's people who normally make their living by agriculture. With a total human population of about three and a half million, the country has about two million cattle. The latter supply milk, cheese, and meat for Finnish tables and a little for export. During the long warm days of Finland's summer, the cattle are partially shielded from pesky insects by smudge fires, which add their smoke to the drowsy summer haze. Many a dairy farmer cuts some wood as a side line (center), to contribute to the foreign trade in wood products, Finland's chief export.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

CASSINO AND MONTE CASSINO IN PATH OF MANY WARS

WAR-WRECKED Cassino and the near-by Benedictine Monastery of Monte Cassino, at which Nazi forces blocked the Allies' road to Rome, stood at a strategic spot that has brought about their destruction in several previous conflicts.

More than 2,000 years before the Nazis turned the old monastery above the town into a fortress, Hannibal was impressed by the military importance of the site. Between 580 and 590 it was sacked by the Lombards; it was destroyed by the Saracens in 884. During the Napoleonic Wars Murat was defeated there by the Austrians. In addition to human devastation, earthquakes have inflicted damage.

The Monastery of Monte Cassino was built by St. Benedict in 529 A.D. Its massive fort-like walls dominating the heights above Cassino are characteristic of the severely plain architecture of early Benedictine monasteries. St. Benedict made the abbey his headquarters. He died and was buried there. For centuries Monte Cassino was the center of western Europe's religious life.

About 85 miles southeast of Rome, the site of Cassino is in the fertile valley of the Rapido River, a few miles above its junction with the Liri. It served as a market for the surrounding region. The town was called San Germano until 1871, when it resumed the name of the ancient town of Casinum, the ruins of which lie a little to the south. Among these relics of the Roman Empire are a theater, and an amphitheater with outer walls rising 59 feet. Near by ran the Via Latina, the easterly of two ancient roads from Rome to Naples. Across the river was the villa of Mark Antony's orgies which brought down the wrath of Cicero.

When the monasteries were dissolved in 1866, the Abbey of Monte Cassino was made a national monument and the monks were appointed its custodians.

In spite of past depredations, the abbey had an 80,000-volume library which contained many of the earliest examples of the printer's art. Included also were hundreds of ancient manuscripts and 40,000 historical records. In the buildings were stored many of Italy's world-famous paintings; the collection of Greek medals from the museum at Syracuse, Sicily; and art treasures from the Museum of San Martino and the National Museum at Naples.

* * * * *

BUTTER PROVES MRS. AMERICA'S MOST-MISSED FOOD

BUTTER is what American housewives say they miss most. Military needs for this popular dairy product leave the civilian supply below normal. When Mrs. America goes to market, according to a recent poll, she misses the unrationed abundance of the butter even more than meat and sugar.

With the needs of the armed forces biting deep into the more than 2 billion pounds of butter produced last year in the United States, the plea "Go easy on the butter" is as familiar today as it was during World War I.

Although Americans use butter mainly as a food, people of some countries have used it in other ways. In Ethiopia it is a cosmetic. A cloud of flies buzzing above the head of an Ethiopian woman is a sign that she has buttered her locks and bettered her looks (illustration, next page). A pat of butter smeared on top of her head, where the sun can melt it to a high-smelling rancid grease, serves to make kinky locks more manageable.

UMI

B. Anthony Stewart

IN GREECE ALL ROADS LEAD TO PIRAEUS, AND THE BUSIEST ARE WATER ROADS

As Greece is a nation of islands and peninsulas, gulfs and bays clustered about a mainland core, the busiest traffic routes are waterways. These converge on Piraeus, seaport of Athens and nerve center of Greek shipping. Before the war the old port that Themistocles sponsored ranked after Marseille, Genoa, and Naples as a Mediterranean leader in freight tonnage. Most of the 13,000 vessels docking there in a sample peacetime year were engaged in coastwise traffic or trade with Greece's Aegean islands. In number, though not in tonnage, they exceeded those docking during the same period at any other Mediterranean port. The modern city climbs the historic slopes of the hills (background) southeast of the harbor which form a thin peninsula linking the headland of Acte (from which ancient Attica may have derived its name) to mainland Greece. From the peninsula an ancient walled road led to Athens, five miles northeast. As the terminus of Greece's important highways and railways, Piraeus is especially useful to Nazi forces which have occupied the country since April, 1941.

In Choni, a village in China's Kansu Province, butter, mixed with powdered colors and molded by the monks, is turned into gods that rule for one night every year. Hundreds of pounds of butter, made from yak's milk, are used to make these weird and colorful butter gods. The price of butter, even in Choni, skyrockets during this annual art show. Visitors to the yearly Butter Festival sniff mothballs to offset the rancid smell of the exhibits.

Most Americans prefer their butter fresh, but Scots and Irish—as late as the end of the 18th century—buried their butter deep in the peat bogs to age and flavor it. Bog butter was considered at its best after it had been buried seven years.

Butter was first made commercially in the United States in 1856 in Orange County, New York. The average person in the United States before the war ate about 17 pounds a year, but the 1943 rationed figure was just above 13 pounds, according to official estimates.

Bulletin No. 5, March 6, 1944.

W. Robert Moore

GALLA GIRLS BUTTER BRAIDS INSTEAD OF BREAD

A butter shortage would be a double-barreled deprivation to girls of southern Ethiopia's Galla tribes, who not only eat it but wear it. The Galla girl places a sizable chunk of butter on top of her head. It melts in the hot sun and runs through her brunette thatch, subduing it so that she can "do something with it." Starting with small strands at the front and edging along, picking up strands and braiding them close to the scalp, she achieves a pattern of parallel furrows curving from forehead to the base of her brain, where the braid ends are held in a bushy tassel. Galla belles also butter their hair into curls somewhat in the early-Shirley-Temple style, or comb it into a domed and greasy pompadour.